

Mon 5/18/2020 3:00 PM

Commissioner, DOT (DOT sponsored) dot.commissioner@alaska.gov

All Staff Update

Dear DOT&PF Team:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way we live, from our work to our personal lives. I appreciate everyone's dedication and hard work, and for practicing social distancing and being cognizant of the health of yourself, your coworkers and the public.

As we continue to deal with the present reality, I want to let you know that DOT&PF will extend telework agreements through the end of June for those who are successful at it and want to continue telecommuting. That decision will be reviewed again in late June. There is no defined timeline for staff to return to the office, but I will keep you apprised of any changes to that statewide decision.

I know many of you are missing the interactions work provides – both professional and social. If you would like to come back and work in the office full or part time, please work with your supervisor. We need to make sure we are able to socially distance at work and that may take a bit of coordinating.

With that in mind, we have developed a statewide Office Operating Plan for our offices, as well as some DOT&PF Building Ground Rules. It is important for all of you to review and follow these plans to keep yourself and your co-workers safe and healthy. The Office Operating Plan and the Building Ground Rules are available on the intranet at the following links:

- Building Ground Rules: <https://web.dot.state.ak.us/comm/documents/DOTPF-Building-Ground-Rules.pdf>
- Office Operating Plan: <https://web.dot.state.ak.us/comm/covid-office-operating-plan.shtml>

I am impressed with how successful most of you are at telecommuting and how you have embraced new forms of communication. Here in the commissioner's office we are using Microsoft Teams daily if not hourly, to discuss, plan and make decisions. We are experimenting with new technologies for how boards and public work groups can meet with and take input from the public.

We are also looking at how we can modify our tasks, services, and business processes so they can easily be performed from home offices in a telecommuting environment. When we do get back to normal, it will be a "new" normal and teleworking may be a part of that for those who have successfully made the transition.

As you all know, Alaska has many challenges facing us in the coming year. Adding to the pandemic, the tourism season appears dismal, restaurant service is significantly limited, commercial fishing season is facing a questionable market, the price of oil has dropped dramatically and many Alaskans are without work. We will face these challenges with our typical DOT&PF can-do attitude.

Our construction season is getting into full swing. Our annual construction program may be the brightest spot in Alaska's economic portfolio this year and we are working exceptionally hard to make sure it goes through without a hitch. We plan on putting money on the street and into the Alaskan economy. These are jobs for Alaskans. Each and every one of you plays your part in making that happen through our airport and highway projects. As travel restrictions are lifted, the Alaska Marine Highway System will increase service and more communities will start to get service in June and early July.

Thanks for all you do for DOT&PF, for your patience, cooperation and flexibility during these challenging times. Please stay well, wash your hands and practice social distancing.

John MacKinnon

Commissioner

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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